

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196482

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, XK

SUBJECT: GVN INTENTION ESTABLISH EMBASSY IN CENTRAL
AMERICA

REF: A. SAIGON 11515; B. SAIGON 11179

1. MEXICO: GOM ESTABLISHES RELATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERN-
MENTS WITHOUT REGARD TO IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS. GOM
ALSO ASPIRES TO THIRD WORLD LEADERSHIP, BUT IN LATIN CON-
TEXT "THIRD WORLD" MEANS INDEPENDENCE OF U. S. AND USSR
BUT NOT NECESSARILY DISPOSITION TOWARDS NATIONAL LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS EVIDENT, SAY, IN OAU COUNTRIES. IN SHORT, GOM
WOULD PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT MAKE A DECISION FOR OR AGAINST
GVN ESTABLISHING EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY ON IDEOLOGICAL
BASIS. WORTH NOTING THAT MEXICO VOTED AGAINST PRG ACCREDI-
TATION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR (MEXICO 3243,
APRIL 17, 1974). A CAUTION HOWEVER IS THAT CENTRAL CON-
CERN OF GOM AT PRESENT IS CANVASSING SUPPORT FOR CHARTER
OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES. GOM PROBABLY RELUCTANT TO
TAKE ACTIONS THAT WOULD PREJUDICE SUPPORT AMONG LDC'S FOR
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THIS CHARTER AND HENCE WOULD PROBABLY AVOID GVN APPROACH

IF GOM PERCEIVED THIS WOULD PROVOKE ADVERSE REACTIONS. BELIEVE FORTHRIGHT BUT LOW KEY (AND UNPUBLICIZED) APPROACH TO GOM IS BEST COURSE FOR GVN. SUBSTANTIAL U. S. INTERVENTION ON GVN BEHALF NOT RPT NOT ADVISABLE.

2. MEXICO WOULD BE HIGHEST PRESTIGE LOCATION IN MIDDLE AMERICA. MEXICO CITY IS THE PREMIER CITY OF NORTHERN LATIN AMERICA, RANKS AMONG TOP FOUR CITIES SOUTH OF RIO GRANDE. COSTS ON PAR WITH U. S. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH U. S. AND OTHER PARTS OF MIDDLE AMERICA GOOD TO EXCELLENT. SPANISH NECESSARY BUT ENGLISH WIDELY ENOUGH USED TO ALLOW GVN PERSONNEL TO FUNCTION. FRENCH NOT RPT NOT USED.

3. ALL FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS WOULD PROBABLY BE RECEPTIVE TO GVN. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS THERE:

A. GUATEMALA -- MIDDLE-COST ECONOMY, BEST REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION OF FIVE CA'S.

B. EL SALVADOR -- LOW-COST ECONOMY, ADEQUATE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION.

C. HONDURAS -- LOW-COST ECONOMY, POOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION.

D. NICARAGUA -- LOW-COST ECONOMY, ADEQUATE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION. (GON MIGHT BE MOST RECEPTIVE TO GVN AS WELL.)

E. COSTA RICA -- HIGH-COST ECONOMY, ADEQUATE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION.

4. AMONG FIVE CA'S ENGLISH PROBABLY MOST COMMON IN COSTA RICA BUT ALSO KNOWN BY MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE OTHER FOUR.

5. PANAMA LIKELY TO GIVE GVN COOL RECEPTION, GIVEN GENERAL ORIENTATION AND RECENT GESTURES TOWARD THIRD WORLD. GOP HAS DEVELOPED STRONG TIES WITH MIDDLE EASTERN CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRIES AND EASTERN EUROPE AND HAS JUST RECOGNIZED CUBA. GOP WOULD PROBABLY LISTEN POLITELY, THEN DRAG ITS HEELS. ECONOMY GENERALLY HIGH COST. TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION FACILITIES EXCELLENT. ENGLISH USED.

6. DEPARTMENT HAPPY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO AS REQUIRED, OR SUGGEST YOU CABLE U. S. POSTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA WITH DEPARTMENT AS INFO ADDRESSEE. KISSINGER

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